

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SECTO 21003 132234Z

62

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O 132102Z AUG 76 ZFF-4

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN NEW YORK

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 21003

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: VISIT OF FSO TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON

BEGIN TEXT

1. EMBASSY BEIRUT SHOULD PROVIDE PRIME MINISTER KARAME WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON MONDAY, AUGUST 16; OTHER ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD PROVIDE SAME INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN HOST GOVERNMENTS, ON SAME DAY IF POSSIBLE.

2. OWING TO THE SECURITY SITUATION IN LEBANON, A LONG PERIOD HAS GONE BY WITHOUT DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND LEADERS AND OTHER INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN LEBANON. SECURITY CONDITIONS SIMPLY DO NOT PERMIT OUR PERSONNEL IN OUR EMBASSY IN WEST BEIRUT TO CROSS THE PRESENT CONFRONTATION LINE IN BEIRUT, WHICH IS WHERE AMBASSADOR MELOY, COUNSELOR WARING, AND THEIR DRIVER WERE ASSASSINATED.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SECTO 21003 132234Z

3. FOR THESE REASONS AMBASSADOR SEELYE WAS UNABLE TO PASS THROUGH EAST BEIRUT DURING THE PERIOD OF HIS MISSION IN THE CITY. ON LEAVING LEBANON, WE WANTED HIM TO PROCEED AT ONCE TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS.

4. THEREFORE, WE HAVE DECIDED TO SEND A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, WITH PAST EXPERIENCE IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS, INTO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON IN ORDER TO DISCUSS WITH KEY LEBANESE PERSONALITIES THERE THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE LEBANESE SCENE AND TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS. THE OFFICER IS EDWARD P. DJEREJIAN, A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WHO IS PRESENTLY CONSUL GENERAL IN BORDEAUX, BUT WHO SERVED PREVIOUSLY IN BEIRUT AND SPEAKS FRENCH AND ARABIC.

5. DJEREJIAN WILL SPEND SEVERAL DAYS IN THIS AREA, AFTER WHICH WE EXPECT HIM TO LEAVE LEBANON TO REPORT ON HIS INITIAL DISCUSSIONS. WE EXPECT THEN THAT HE WOULD PROCEED AGAIN TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON FOR ANOTHER SHORT PERIOD, RETURN TO WASHINGTON, AND, AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATIONS, RETURN TO HIS POST IN BORDEAUX.

6. IT IS OBVIOUS, THEREFORE, THAT THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY EXPEDIENT. DJEREJIAN IS NOT A SPECIAL EMISSARY. HE WILL NOT BE CARRYING ANY SPECIAL MESSAGE OR ANY PROPOSALS, ALTHOUGH HE WILL OF COURSE BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE ESTABLISHED U.S. POSITION ON SOME ASPECTS OF THE LEBANESE PROBLEM. HE IS SIMPLY AUGMENTING, ON A VERY TEMPORARY BASIS, WHAT SHOULD BE THE NORMAL ACTIVITIES OF OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT, IF SECURITY CONDITIONS PERMITTED, IN MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH ALL THE LEBANESE PARTIES.

7. WE HOPE THAT SECURITY CONDITIONS WILL SOON IMPROVE TO THE POINT WHERE MORE REGULAR CONTACT BETWEEN OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT AND THE LEBANESE PARTIES, INCLUDING THOSE IN CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED AREAS OF LEBANON, WILL AGAIN BE POSSIBLE. IF SECURITY CONDITIONS REMAIN AS DIFFICULT AS THEY ARE NOW, WE MAY WANT TO SEND AN OFFICER IN AGAIN TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED AREAS FROM TIME TO TIME.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SECTO 21003 132234Z

8. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL CONCERNED UNDERSTAND THAT SENDING AN OFFICER TEMPORARILY TO A PART OF LEBANON WHICH CANNOT NOW BE SAFELY REACHED BY OUR EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAS NO REPEAT NO POLICY IMPLICATIONS. AS HAS BEEN REGULARLY MADE CLEAR, THE U.S. IS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO PARTITION OR DE FACTO PARTITION AS A SOLUTION TO THE LEBANESE PROBLEM. WE FIRMLY SUPPORT LEBANON'S SOVEREIGNTY, ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, ITS NATIONAL

COHESION AND UNITY.

9. ACTION ADDRESSEES OTHER THAN BEIRUT SHOULD ADD THE FOLLOWING: WE PLAN TO KEEP YOUR GOVERNMENT INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF DJEREJIAN'S CONVERSATIONS.

10. IF THE QUESTION ARISES OF CHAMOUN'S ROLE AS FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT ONLY IF IT DOES, BEIRUT SHOULD TELL KARAME, AND OTHER ACTION ADDRESSEES MAY INFORM APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS, THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY, WITH AN ACTIVE CIVIL CONFLICT, NO EFFECTIVE COUNTRY-WIDE AUTHORITY AND WIDESPREAD DISORDER, SEEMS TO MAKE MOOT MOST QUESTIONS SUCH AS THIS. WE HAVE TAKEN NO POSITION ON THE MATTER OF CHAMOUN'S APPOINTMENT BY FRANGIE. THE FACT IS THAT CHAMOUN IS A PROMINENT CHRISTIAN LEADER AND A FORMER PRESIDENT. AMERICANS HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM IN THE PAST. WE WOULD WANT ANY AMERICAN OFFICIAL VISITING CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON TO SEE HIM IN ANY EVENT.
END TEXT.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, CHRISTIANS, VISITS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SECTO21003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760312-0674
From: SECRETARY NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760855/aaaabvrX.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF FSO TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON BEGIN TEXT
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, OVIP, LE, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (DJEREJIAN, EDWARD P)
To: BEIRUT DAMASCUS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006